



United States
Department of
Agriculture
Forest Service

July 2021

Scoping Document

Lamoille Canyon SNOTEL Installation Project

Comments Welcome

The Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest welcomes your comments on the proposed Lamoille Canyon SNOTEL Installation Project located on National Forest System land in Elko County, Nevada.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to issue a special use permit to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to operate and maintain a SNOTEL station in the headwaters of Lamoille Creek.

The SNOTEL site would be comprised of a snow pillow, precipitation gage, electronics shelter, a meteorological tower, and a small fence. No additional ground disturbance is anticipated beyond the immediate 150 square foot area of the site.

Decision Framework

The deciding officer would decide whether or not to approve the proposed action on National Forest System land.

Expected Analysis

A proposed action may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA) only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action and the proposed action is with a category listed in 36 CFR Section 220.6.

The preliminary assessment is that this proposal fits within the following category – Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land (36 CFR 220.6(e)(3)). The project location is a previously disturbed area.

If during the analysis it is apparent that an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is required, then the Forest Service would reassess the project and adjust the analysis as necessary.

Section 106 under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended,

requires federal agencies such as the USDA Forest Service to identify and consider potential effects of its actions on historic properties.

This is done through a collaborative framework of seeking, discussing, and considering views of the public on how potential adverse effects on historic properties resulting from a proposed Federal action should be addressed. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will be using the NEPA scoping process in lieu of public involvement requirements found in 36 CFR Part 800, the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306108).

Implementation Time Frames

Implementation for the project is expected to begin in August of 2021.

Comment Process

The Forest Service encourages your comments on this proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project, will be available for public inspection, and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

To be most effective, we ask that comments be submitted no later than August 6, 2021.

Submit written comments to Joshua Nicholes, District Ranger, Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger District, 660 South 12th Street, Suite 108, Elko, NV 89801. The office business hours for those submitting comments in person are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to: comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtncity@usda.gov.

For further information please contact Wendy Markham, Project Coordinator at 775-304-6016 or wendy.markham@usda.gov.

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